



## November 2019 Newsletter

**President: Bryan Hopper**

### **Committee members 2019**

Mike Benson  
Tim Bullock                      Chairman  
Ian Cowdy                        Editor – Newsletter, AHAT leader  
Stephen Greenaway          Vice Chairman, Spray and swarm liaison.  
Clive Harris                      Treasurer  
Kathy Hobson                  Secretary, membership secretary.  
Andy Jones  
Nicola Perrett  
Christopher Wilkinson        Website manager

This newsletter carries sad news, the death of Bryan Hopper from a long struggle with Asbestosis. I have sent a card to his wife and family on all our behalf and when we know the date of his funeral Kathy Hobson will inform you all.

### **Obituary**

It is with sadness that I write to remember Bryan Hopper (President SBKA) . Having known Bryan for many years we have lost a true friend and colleague. I first met Bryan forty years ago when he was employed as an engineer for Roussell Laboratories. I always found him great company to be with. More recently we both found a common interest in beekeeping often exchanging new ideas and also helping our members with help and advice. Bryan received the highest Swindon BBKA award when he was elected President in 2015, a position he thoroughly deserved and a position he held until his passing. Bryan will be sadly missed for his experience and help and above all his humour and friendship. We will miss him!

Mike Benson

### **Octobers AGM**

The minutes, treasurers' report and any other business were accepted by the members present. All Officers and committee members were re-elected unopposed

### **November meeting**

An open forum but biased to bits of equipment or things you have tried whilst bee keeping. Please share your ideas and gadgets **even if they didn't work.**

### **Andy Phillipson shares his experience**

I attended the Gloucestershire Beekeepers Association (GBKA) Honey Bee Health day on 3rd August. It was run with the support of their Regional and Seasonal Bee Inspectors on behalf of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and was probably the best £8 I spent this year.

There were lectures on Keeping Healthy Bees and Asian Hornet and Small Hive Beetle, followed by a Bee disease quiz which was quite challenging. A practical session in the apiary demonstrated How to do a Disease Inspection. The Bee Inspectors recommend carrying out a disease inspection 3 times a year, and don't do anything else during those inspections, just concentrate on diseases.

Lectures on Brood disease recognition (EFB, AFB, Sac brood, Chalk brood), Hygiene and biosecurity and Varroa control and treatment were followed by a Workshop on Adult bee disease where the delegates were able to handle diseased frames and carry out EFB tests themselves.

Things that struck me as being particularly important were probably the most simple, but so easy to overlook;

- Most diseases are spread by beekeepers, not bees.
- Bee suits should be regularly washed. Half a cup of washing soda added to the wash helps remove propolis, wax and honey stains.
- Gloves should be clean at the start of inspections, wear disposables if you use leather gloves.
- It is useful to have a container with a washing soda solution in the apiary to clean tools and gloves after finishing inspecting one hive before starting the next.
- Take a container into which brace comb, burr and other scraps can be placed and taken away from site. Old comb discarded in the apiary can set up robbing and be a vector for disease transmission.
- Clean your smoker! Use washing soda and pay attention to the bellows.
- Regular brood comb changing can improve the health of your bees.
- Try not to swap frames between hives

For more information visit

<http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk//healthybeesplan>

Andy Phillipson

### **Training**

The club is running training courses again next year so if you want to or know someone who would like to attend the "Starting beekeeping", "Taster day" or study for the Basic qualification please contact Kathy Hobson asap.

### **Twigs Apiary**

Three colonies going into winter. No problems experienced with stores etc.

### **Park Farm apiary**

The three colonies have stopped taking syrup and the roof spaces finally closed up.

### **Tales from the Bee Trailer**

The three colonies inside are still taking syrup, although the temperature inside is the same as outside the interior is dry! This I am sure will contribute to their overwintering survival.

### **Club meetings**

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month throughout the year except December.

Venue is in the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD.

Start time 1930 hrs

November 28th Gadgets and ideas that did or didn't work

December 12th Skittles with free buffet. (you have to pay for your own beer though).

Above list will be subject to change depending on availability of speakers.

Any suggestions for talks etc. please pass to Kathy Hobson or me.

This Newsletter should be more than a list of events and needs input from members so if you have anything related to beekeeping or something unusual please send to me so it can be included in future newsletters.

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